(c) and (d) The project proposals have been received in the Ministry of Tourism. The projects are sanctioned within the same financial year provided all the formalities are completed by the State Government.

Declining Trend in Hotel Occupation

2112. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to State:

(a) whether tourists and hotel occupancy showed decline in the new millennium from previous new year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures proposed to attract foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) There was a decline in occupancy rate in approved categories of hotels during January 2000 as compared to January 1999. However, the foreign tourist arrivals has shown an upward trend. The reasons for decline in occupancy rate of approved hotels include high rates of published hotel tariffs in metro cities and the decline in business and conference traffic.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to attract more foregin tourists include development and improvement of tourist infrastructure facilities, publicity and marketing efforts in the overseas markets and use of information technology.

Declaration of Durga Hatkoti Temple as a Pilgrim Centre

2113. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to State:

(a) the number of Tourist Pilgrim Centes identified by Government during the last three years, their names and funds allocated to each pilgrim centre;

(b) whether Government will consider to include Durga Hatkoti Temple for Tourist Pilgrim Centre during 2000-2001;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?